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THANKSGIVING DAY.

Its Observance in the Churches.

Discourses of Revs. W. J. Reid, Alex. Clark, A. Bonnyman, J. K. Kerr, A. M. Bell, Henry D. Moore, W. H. Beadle, Jno. G. Brown, D. D., D. C. Page, D. D., John Douglas, D. D., C. A. Dickey, S. F. Scovel, and E. E. Snyder.

Thursday was very generally observed in this city as a day of thanksgiving, in accordance with the proclamations of the President of the United States and the Governor of Pennsylvania. Notwithstanding the rain, which fell almost incessantly during the day, the churches were well attended, and the discourses delivered were of an eloquent and appropriate character. The following are the reports of many of them:

NATIONAL PROSPERITY.

By Rev. William J. Reid, Pastor of First U. P. Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh.

TEXT—PS. 144:11-15. Rid me and deliver me from the hand of strange children whose mouth speaketh vanity and their right hand is a right hand of falsehood; that our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth; that our daughters may be as corner stones, polished after the similitude of a palace; that our garners may be full, affording all manner of store; that our sheep may bring forth thousands and ten thousands in our streets; that our oxen may be strong to labor; that there be no breaking in nor going out; that there be no complaining in our streets. Happy is that people that is in such a case; yea, happy is that people whose God is the Lord.

THE ELEMENTS OF NATIONAL PROSPERITY.

1. The education of the young. David expresses this idea in such a way that it will not easily be forgotten. He says: "That our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth; that our daughters may be as corner stones, polished after the similitude of a palace." He first leads us into a garden. Flowers and trees may be frail, affording all manner of store; that our sheep may bring forth thousands and ten thousands in our streets; that our oxen may be strong to labor." The Psalmist says nothing of the mineral wealth. He speaks only of its necessaries, for luxuries form no part of the prosperity of a nation. In David's estimation, that nation is prosperous whose garners and flocks furnished a plentiful supply of food and raiment. Our Republic has the element of prosperity in it to a high degree, and within its borders all that David thought necessary to constitute national prosperity is found.

2. Freedom from war is the next element of prosperity mentioned in the text. "That there be no breaking in nor going out." "Strife is not invasion by a foreign foe and no outbreaks of a rebellion at home. Where this element of prosperity. With the exception of a few misguided men on our northern frontier, who have vainly tried to wage war against what reasonable man must regard as an impossibility, and a few adventurous spirits on our western frontier, who have been harrassed by the Indians, all our citizens are enjoying uninterrupted peace.

4 Freedom from complaints is the next element of national prosperity mentioned in the text. "That there be no complaining in our streets." This is rather an indication than an element of national prosperity. Still the sigh of the afflicted are so closely related that we may regard them as identical. This indication of national prosperity is wanting in our Republic. Complaints are heard on every hand. And every one, acquainted with the acts and utterances of the Executive must know that these complaints are not without cause.

5 An acknowledgement of God is the last mentioned and most important element of national prosperity. Our acknowledgement of God, to some measure, in its Constitution and on its coinage, but we have still an attainment to make in this direction. Until this attainment is made, we have no right to expect the full prosperity of the nation, "whose God is the Lord."

THE MEANS OF ACQUIRING NATIONAL PROSPERITY.

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Our duty then is plain. We are to labor for deliverance from such men. But how? Not by destroying them with the sword or banishing them from the land, but by sending the Gospel to convert their souls to God. The missionary work is the great instrumentality to be employed.

And while this work is being accomplished, we must give good heed that such wicked men are not exalted to office. And when through ignorance and carelessness or through corruption, they are invested with official power, we are to remove them in a peaceful and lawful manner. Does not such a one occupy the highest place within the nation's gift? Is he not aptly described in the words of the Confederation? He is one of the "strange children," for he is a stranger to God. He "speaks vanity," for he declares with insufferable egotism that his ambition is satisfied, because he has held every office in the gift of the people, from that of Alderman to that of President. His "right hand is a right hand of falsehood," for he has sworn to laws he has not performed, and taken oaths he has not kept. Such men give us deliverance? No! By the, pointed out by the Psalmist as a dagger, for they are brutal and sinful. Not even by impeachment, for this is a remedy almost as bad as those who count their official oaths as nothing and their country's constitution as a plaything, but by grinding them around with every legal embarrassment. So strengthen the Legislative branch of our Government that the Executive will no longer think it the "so-called Congress of the United States, hanging upon the verge of the Government," to be cut down by the axe and fetters of steel, to hinder him from wronging the constitution or injuring the nation.

PRAISE GOD FOR ALL HIS FAVORS.

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The year which to-morrow night shall lapse into its cold, wintry bosom of December, has been one of bounty and blessing. Our fields and orchards have yielded abundantly beneath the smiles of a loving Benefactor. Our granaries are full. This nation's true nobility, the farmer, has been loaded in palaces, and been rewarded by Him who wakes to life the buried grain, feeds it with his dew, nurtures it by his rain, and stimulates its bearded strength, and browns it into harvest by his breath. The summer has ended by filling the lap of autumn with fruits. The autumn lingers heavy laden with her fruits. From the sea-wind slopes of Maine to the westmost soil of the Oregon valley, from the prairie plain and valley between, the earth has poured forth its wealth of grain and fruits for all. And to-day across this broad and fertile land, from the rising to the setting of the sun, in gratitude for the life gifts that have grown up in ripeness and sweetness and fullness to our lips, the Lord's name is to-day to be praised.

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We praise the Lord's name, to-day, for a conquered Rebellion. The Hydra was the outgrowth of a deep planted, but lawless and mistaken ambition for a slave oligarchy in the South. Its leaders had long contemplated the terrible test and hazard of arms to maintain a separate southern independence. But the rulers of men are often turned into the ministers to God's truth. The issue so irrevocably solid before the leverage of Christian love, and so presumptuously defiant against every political appliance, may have been a Providence to try the strength of our patriotism,—to draw out, discipline and consolidate our national powers, and if our sins and through a million of rain and loss, of the cost of a million bondage. Slavery was our shame in the eyes of every Christian loving community on earth, and must have tinged with a blush the face of every organized community in heaven. Considerately and slowly we were led into challenging battle to this "Peculiar Institution," with its overgrown and bewildering ramifications, and as reasonable man must regard as an impossibility, and a few adventurous spirits on our western frontier, who have been harrassed by the Indians, all our citizens are enjoying uninterrupted peace.

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into choral harmony or collocal organ—as to subjects the place where His glory at the moment is in the light, accessible. Let our praises go upward on the strong current.

THE NATION'S HARVESTS.

By Rev. John Douglas, D. D., Pastor of the First Reformed Presbyterian Church, of Pittsburgh.

TEXT—Also in the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when ye have gathered in the fruit of the land, you shall keep a feast unto the Lord, seven days.—Leviticus xxiii:39.

Three times a year all the Jewish males, of a certain age, were required to appear before the Lord in such place as he might choose, in the observance of the feast of unleavened bread, the feast of weeks, and of tabernacles. Each of these three great annual festivals had some connection with harvest. Agriculture, plenty in all its forms, and national prosperity, and should therefore be made an subject of national thanksgiving.

The feast of the Passover or unleavened bread, was instituted in connection with the destroying Angel, passing over the houses of Israel, on that fearful night in which he carried dread consternation and overwhelming terror into every Egyptian home. It was observed from the 15th day of the month Nisan or Abib, which corresponded to our April, and was the first of the Jewish religious year. At this time the grain began to ripen, and as the Jewsgave the first of every thing to the Lord, on the second day of the feast, or the morrow after the Sabbath, a sheaf of the first fruits of the barley harvest was brought the priest to be waved before the Lord. The waving of the sheaf was accompanied with a burnt offering and until the sheaf was presented and the offering made, none of the harvest could be eaten.

The feast of the Pentecost was observed on the fifteenth day after the celebration of the Passover, or seven weeks—a week of weeks—after the 16th of the month Nisan. It was a harvest festival, and was called the feast of wheat harvest, or the feast of the first fruits of the harvest. Two wave loaves—made of the best of wheat flour—were presented to the Lord, accompanied with a burnt offering and a sin offering and a peace offering.

The third feast was that of tabernacles, to which reference is had in the text, commenced on the fifteenth day of the seventh month, and continued for seven days. It was the last feast of the ecclesiastical year—and continued seven days. It was observed in memory of the wilderness life, and in October. At this time the harvest, and the produce of the earth were gathered in, houses was erected in the fields, and the people dwelt in booths for seven days, as a season of joy and thanksgiving.

In these festivals we have a beautiful picture of the spiritual harvest, and the joy that shall be experienced in the gathering in of the ripe fruits of the earth. This was the glorious vision that John saw, when he was banished on the Island of Patmos, and he describes it in the seventh chapter of the Revelation. The multitude which no man could number, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes and palms in their hands.

WELFARE OF THE FREEDMEN.

By Rev. Charles A. Dickey, Pastor Fourth United Presbyterian Church, Allegheny.

TEXT—Psalm 125. "For the oppression of the poor, for the sighing of the needy, now will I arise, saith the Lord. I will set him in safety from him that puff on at him."

The text announces a resolution of the Lord, and for God to resolve is to perform. Men may make their choice between fruitless, self-ingrossing, self-destroying rebellion, and fruitful, self-sacrificing, self-improving obedience, but God's resolve is always for profit to the congregation. We need never be at a loss to know which is the right side, which the winning side, which the safe side. Let us ascertain what God is, examine his own word and discover God's will and find out which side he has declared it is for us to stand which side He is working, we may count on Him. He will arise for the help of the needy. He will put into execution His own resolve. He will put into execution the oppression of his enemies.

I desire to speak of the oppressed on behalf of a particular class of the needy. The oppressed may be in bondage, or they may be in freedom, but in either case they are oppressed. The particular class of the oppressed to which I desire to call the attention of this congregation, is that of the recently emancipated colored people. The freedmen. The freedmen are oppressed. Their oppression has been illustrated, displayed, and proved, by the cruelties and inhumanities which have been practiced upon them in the southern states. The oppression has been illustrated, displayed, and proved, by the legislation which has been enacted by the legislatures of the southern states. The oppression has been illustrated, displayed, and proved, by the refusal of the President to grant them the rights of citizenship. The oppression has been illustrated, displayed, and proved, by the refusal of the Congress of the United States to admit the representatives of the southern states to their seats in Congress, because they refuse to grant the freedmen the rights of citizenship. The oppression has been illustrated, displayed, and proved, by the refusal of the people of the northern states to grant the freedmen the right of suffrage. The oppression has been illustrated, displayed, and proved, by the refusal of the people of the northern states to grant the freedmen the right of suffrage. The oppression has been illustrated, displayed, and proved, by the refusal of the people of the northern states to grant the freedmen the right of suffrage.

CONTINUED ON FOURTH PAGE.

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1866.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The President's Message to Congress is about what we expected it to be, both in the subjects that it embraces and in the tone that pervades it. Restricted by the necessities of the case, it exhibits little that is either new or startling in our National affairs, our condition happily not affording occasion or material. Its recommendations are few. The reiteration of the President's views of reconstruction is brought under this head, and in support of this recommendation, the arguments formerly adduced are again presented, and the subject left to the action of Congress.

The tone of the message is serious, dignified and deferential to Congress. There is such an absence of anything like belligerency or even assumption toward that body, that, contrasted with some of the unofficial utterances which not long ago fell from the same lips, the Message appears to bear almost a subdued and certainly a conciliatory tone. Although it expresses the opinions formerly maintained, and with the same arguments, it is done courteously and with only the seriousness becoming avowed convictions. The prerogative of action it leaves unquestioned with Congress. The closing sentence, so far as the tone of the Message is concerned, is the key-note of the whole, invoking an endeavor "to preserve harmony between the co-ordinate departments of the Government, that each in its proper sphere may cordially co-operate with the other in securing the maintenance of the Constitution, the preservation of the Union, and the perpetuity of our free institutions."

As a document, considering the circumstances, the Message is more remarkable, if remarkable at all, for what it omits to say than for what it really says.

The returns of the October and November elections do not seem to have reached him, and he is oblivious to the fact that the appeal he made to the people against Congress has been decided against him—hence, indeed, the non-partisan tone of the President is to be taken as showing that he fully comprehends all this.

The discussion of our foreign affairs is considerately briefer than was expected, and this part of the Message appears to have been completed and sent out before the last note of NAPOLEON was received.

SECRETARY M'CULLOCH'S REPORT

Secretary MCCULLOCH'S opening announcement that the receipts for the three quarters of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1866, have exceeded the estimate by about $60,000,000, and that the expenditures fall short of the estimate by $200,529,296, is a pleasant prelude to the many gratifying results of the year's operations which are unfolded in different parts of the report. We pass over the careful tabular statement of indebtedness and resources which fill the opening pages, to reach a clear understanding of the Secretary's views in regard to current prices, revenue and tariff.

In regard to the sale of gold, about which so much ado has been made, his policy, he tells us, has been to hold a handsome reserve of coin in the Treasury, in order to keep the business of the country as steady as possible, while conducted on the basis of an irredeemable currency. In the exercise of this policy he has deemed it his duty, in the interest of the country, to use the power of the Treasury so as to prevent successful combinations to bring about fluctuations for purely speculative purposes. He has therefore permitted gold to accumulate, when the use or sale of it was not necessary for paying Government obligations, to prevent commercial panics, or successful combinations against the national credit; and he has sold, whenever sales were necessary to supply the Treasury with currency, to ward off financial crises, or to save the paper circulation of the country, as far as practicable, from unnecessary and damaging depreciation.

The Secretary's views in regard to the necessity of a return to specie payment and the means of attaining it have undergone no change. He does not believe that the mere contraction of the currency would alone effect it, although it would be the first and most important step, by increasing value, reducing prices, augmenting exports and reducing imports. A full return to specie payment and a normal condition of production, trade and prices may, in his judgment, be effected, 1. By compelling the national banks to redeem at the Atlantic cities, or at a single city; 2. By a curtailment of the currency to the amount required by legitimate and healthful trade; 3. By a careful revision of the tariff, so as to place it in harmony with our internal taxes; 4. By the issue of bonds, payable in not over twenty years, and bearing interest at the rate of not over five per cent., payable in England or Germany, to an amount sufficient to take up the six per cent. bonds now held in Europe, and finally, 5. by a re-habilitation of the Southern States. Arguments and facts, designed to elucidate and sustain these propositions, are set forth at length in the report. If Congress shall concur in these views, the Secretary believes that specie payment may be resumed in two years.

The question of the revision of the tariff with reference to increasing revenue has been referred to MR. DAVID A. WELLS, Commissioner of Revenue, for a report. Meantime, Secretary MCCULLOCH indicates the following general principles as safely applicable to the government of the question. 1. That the fewest number of articles, consistent with the amount of revenue to be raised, should be taxed. 3. That the duties upon imported commodities, should correspond and harmonize with the taxes upon home productions; these duties should not be so high as to be prohibitory nor so low as to impair revenue, and subject home manufactures, burdened with heavy internal taxes to a competition with cheaper labor, and larger capital than they may be able to sustain. 3. That the raw materials used in building and manufacturing and which are to be largely enhanced in value, by the labor which is to be expended upon them, should be exempted from, or subject only to a very low tax. And 4. That the burdens of taxes should fall chiefly upon those whose interests are protected.

An elaborate and very specific analysis and statement of the public debt concludes the report, which is convenient in arrangement, lucid in statement and perspicuous in style.

THE value and reliableness of fiscal estimates are not, we hope, to be judged generally by the specimens referred to in the President's Message. It was, at the last report, estimated that the national debt would, during the nine months ending June 30th, 1866, be increased $112,000,000; but instead of this, it was *diminished* $81,000,000; making a difference between the estimate and the fact of no less than $193,000,000. It is also stated that the receipts into the Treasury were $90,000,000 more, and the expenses of the Government $200,000,000 less than the estimates for the year. From these statements, the estimates look very much like rough guesses, than which nothing could be more wide and unreliable. Happily, in this case, the mistakes turn on the favorable side. Had the figures been as large and shown on the debit side of the account, they would have produced almost a panic in financial circles. But the facts are assuring to confidence.

IT has been established that General BANKS was intoxicated, on an occasion in Portland, Maine—a charge that was stoutly denied by him in the late canvass. Perhaps what will occur to most minds is, that there is anything astonishing in this, but how far is this kind of investigation by the constituents of Representatives going to extend, and how numerous are to be the exposures of this kind? Were the inquiry to become common, we are not so sure that some good would not be done, and progress made towards attaining a Congress of sober men. Since a dissipated man is not fit to represent a sober constituency, why should not the question of fact, as in the case of General BANKS, be raised and inquired into?

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.—The recommendation by the President that the District of Columbia should be permitted to have a Representative in Congress, is almost the only one the message contains; and it is one, we are glad to say, which has many sound reasons in its favor, with few against it. It will, no doubt, receive the attention its importance demands.

MESSAGE

OF THE

President of the United States

TO THE

Two Houses of Congress at the Commencement of the second Session.

Fellow-Citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives:

After a brief interval the Congress of the United States resumes its annual legislative labors. An all-wise and merciful Providence has abated the pestilence which visited our shores, leaving its calamitous traces upon some portions of our country. Peace, order, tranquility and civil authority have been formally declared to exist throughout the whole of the United States. In all of the States civil authority has superseded the coercion of arms, and the people, by their voluntary action, are maintaining their governments in full activity and complete operation. The enforcement of the laws is no longer "obstructed in any State by combinations too powerful to be suppressed by the ordinary course of judicial proceedings," and the animosities engendered by the war are rapidly yielding to the beneficent influences of our free institutions, and to the kindly effects of unrestricted social and commercial intercourse. An entire restoration of fraternal feeling must be the earnest wish of every patriot-heart; and we will have accomplished our grandest national achievement when, forgetful of the sad years of our separation, remembering only their instructive lessons, we resume our onward career as a free, prosperous, and united people.

In my message of the 4th of December, 1865, Congress was informed of the measures which had been instituted by the Executive with a view to the gradual restoration of the States in which the insurrection occurred to their relations with the General Government. Provisional Governors had been appointed, Conventions called, Governors elected, Legislatures assembled, and Senators and Representatives chosen to the Congress of the United States. Courts had been opened for the enforcement of laws long in abeyance. The blockade had been removed, custom houses re-established, and the internal revenue laws put in force, in order that the people might contribute to the national income. Postal operations had been renewed, and efforts were being made to restore them to their former condition of efficiency. The States themselves had been asked to take part in the high function of amending the Constitution, and of thus sanctioning the extinction of African slavery as one of the legitimate results of our internecine struggle.

Having progressed thus far, the Executive deemed it his duty to defer to the action of Congress the measures necessary for the further restoration of the proper relations of the States and the people of the United States. All of the States in which the insurrection had existed promptly responded to the liberal conditions, and took them conform to the great change thus effected in the organic law of the land; declared null and void all ordinances and laws passed in relation to the pretended debts and obligations for the revolutionary purposes of the insurrection; and proceeded, in good faith, to the inauguration of local governments for the protection and amelioration of the condition of the colored race. Congress, however, yet hesitated to admit any of these States to representation. It was not until towards the close of the eighth month of the session that an exception was made in favor of Tennessee, by the admission of her Senators and Representatives.

I deem it a subject of profound regret that Congress has thus far failed to admit to seats loyal Senators and Representatives from the other States, whose constituents, with those of Tennessee, had engaged in the rebellion. Ten States—more than one-third of the whole number—remain without representation in the Congress. Members in the House of Representatives and of twenty members of the Senate are yet entitled to seats, which have been left vacant by a failure of election, but by the refusal of Congress to accept their credentials. Their admission, it is believed, would have accomplished, more than any other measure, a strengthening of our relations as one people, and removed serious cause for discontent on the part of the inhabitants of those States. It would have accorded with the great principle enunciated in the Declaration of American Independence, that no people ought to bear the burden of taxation and be governed by laws without representation. It would have been in consonance with the express provisions of the Constitution, that "each State shall have at least one Representative," and, "that no State without its consent, shall be deprived of its equal suffrage in the Senate." These provisions were intended to secure to every State, and to the people of every State, the right of representation in each House of Congress; and so important was it deemed by the framers of the Constitution that the equality of the States in the Senate should be preserved, that not even by an amendment of the Constitution can any State, without its consent, be deprived of its voice in that branch of the National Legislature.

It is true, it has been assumed that the existence of the States was terminated by the insurrection of their inhabitants, and that the insurrection having been suppressed, they were thenceforward to be considered merely as conquered territories. Legislative, Executive, and Judicial Departments of the Government have, however, with great distinctness and uniform consistency, refused to sanction these assumptions, and repudiate the nature of our republican system, and with the professed objects of the war. Throughout the recent legislation of Congress, the States lately in insurrection are constantly referred to as possessing all their functions as members of the Union, in such manner as would best promote American commerce, and protect the rights and interests of our countrymen. Their Senators and Representatives, when admitted to seats, if found entitled to them by the decision of each House, are entitled to all the privileges of members. The right of each State to determine, without question or interference, the civil status of its citizens, has been explicitly declared by the admission of Senators and Representatives from States whose people had been in insurrection. Finally, the power of each State to carry into effect the legislation of Congress has been practically illustrated by the payment of taxes, duties, and imposts, and by the dutiful obedience of the citizens of the States which were in insurrection to the requirements of the revenue laws. Thus, in the progress of events, the relations of the States to the National Union have been fully restored, with the consent and participation of the States themselves, and the functions pertaining to those relations faithfully discharged. In fact, no other theory than that of the existence of the States, with their rights unimpaired, can consistently explain the actual condition of affairs, or reconcile the various acts of Congress, passed during the period of the insurrection, with each other.

The Constitution of the United States makes it the duty of the President to recommend to the consideration of Congress "such measures as he shall judge necessary or expedient." I know of no measure more imperatively demanded by every consideration of duty and patriotism, sound policy, and equal justice, than the admission of loyal members from the now unrepresented States. This would consummate the work of restoration, and exert a most salutary influence in the re-establishment of peace, harmony, and fraternal feeling. It would tend greatly to renew the confidence of the American people in the vigor and stability of their institutions. It would bind us more closely together as a nation, and enable us to show to the world the inherent and recuperative power of a Government founded upon the will of the people, who, after the most costly civil war, preserve unimpaired the principles of liberty, justice and intelligence. Our increased strength and enhanced prosperity would irrefragably demonstrate the wisdom of the fundamental principles established by our fathers, and consecrated by the sufferings and blood of the revolution. Few volunteers now remain in the service, and they are being discharged as rapidly as they can be replaced by regular troops. The Army has been promptly and gratuitously provided with medical treatment, well sheltered and subsisted, and is to be furnished with breech-loading small arms. The military strength of the nation has been unimpaired by the discharge of volunteers, the disposition of unserviceable or perishable stores, and the reproduction of arms. The additional war material in store and to meet any emergency has been retained, and, from the disbanded volunteers standing ready to respond to the nation's call, the most efficient can be rapidly organized, equipped, and concentrated. Reserve regiments, to any extent, have been provided for more powerful armaments; lake surveys and harbor and river improvements are in course of energetic prosecution, and the appropriations have been made for the payment of the additional bounties authorized during the recent session of Congress, under such regulations as will protect the Government from fraud, and yet secure to the honorably-discharged soldier the well-earned reward of his faithfulness and gallantry. More than six thousand national cemeteries have received the mortal limbs or other surgical apparatus; and forty-one national cemeteries, containing the remains of 104,526 Unionsoldiers, have already been established. The total estimate of military appropriations is $25,265,669.

It is stated in the report of the Secretary of the Navy that the naval force at this time consists of two hundred and seventy-eight vessels, armed with two thousand three hundred and fifty-one guns. Of these, sixty-four are iron-clads, fifteen screws, carrying one thousand and twenty-nine guns, and the remainder, distributed chiefly among seven squadrons. The number of men in the service is thirteen thousand six hundred. Great activity and vigilance have been displayed by all the squadrons, and their movements have been judiciously regulated so as to secure to our commerce protection in such manner as would best promote American commerce, and protect the rights and interests of our countrymen abroad. The vessels employed in effecting necessary repairs, or are laid up until their services may be required. Most of the iron-clad fleet is at League Island, in the vicinity of Philadelphia, a place which, until decisive action should be taken by Congress, was selected by the Secretary of the Navy as the most eligible location for that class of vessels. It is important that a suitable public station should be established for these iron-clad fleet. It is intended that these vessels shall be in proper condition for any emergency, and it is desirable that the bill accepting League Island for such purpose should not be delayed by the House of Representatives at its last session, should receive final action at an early period, in order that there may be a suitable public station for this class of vessels, as well as a navy-yard of area sufficient for the wants of the service, on the Delaware river. The expenditures of the Navy Department during the present fiscal year, ending June 30, 1866, have been reduced $2,500,000 below the estimates, and the amounts for 1867 and 1868 will be materially less than for the present year. The expenditures of the Department for the fiscal year ending 30th June last were $25,324,326, and the estimates for the coming year amount to $23,568,436. Attention is invited to the condition of our seamen, and the importance of legislative measures for their relief and improvement. The suggestions in behalf of this deserving class of our fellow citizens are earnestly recommended to the favorable attention of Congress.

The report of the Postmaster General presents a most satisfactory condition of the postal service, and submits recommendations which have my approval for the action of Congress. The revenues of the Department for the year ending June 30, 1866, were $13,556,759, and the expenditures $15,352,079, showing an excess of the latter of $666,693. In anticipation of this deficiency, however, a special appropriation was made by Congress in the act approved July 28, 1866. Including the pending appropriation of $700,000 for free mail matter, as a legitimate portion of the revenues for the year, the deficiency will be only $266,693—a sum within $51,141 of the amount estimated in the annual report of 1864. The increase of revenue during the year over the previous year was one and one-fifth per cent., and the increase of expenditures, owing principally to the enlargement of the mail service, was fifteen and one-half per cent. On the 30th of June last there were in operation six thousand nine hundred and thirty mail routes, with an aggregate length of one hundred and forty thousand nine hundred and twenty-one miles, an aggregate annual transportation thirty million six hundred and fourteen miles, and the annual transportation thirty million six hundred and nine thousand four hundred and sixty-seven miles. The length of steamboat routes was fifteen thousand three hundred and forty-six miles, and the annual transportation three million four hundred and eleven thousand nine hundred and twenty miles. The mail service is rapidly increasing throughout the whole country, and its steady extension in the Southern States indicates their complete and early restoration. The growing importance of the foreign service also merits attention. The Postoffice Department has entered into new postal conventions, which, it is believed, will prove eminently beneficial to the commercial interests of the country. Among these is one which contemplates a reduction of the international letter postage to one-half the existing rates; a reduction of postage on printed matter, and the mails by which correspondence is transmitted, in the British mail, or in closed mails through the United Kingdom; the establishment of a uniform rate of ship postage charges for the sea and territorial transit of correspondence in closed mails; and an allowance to each Post Office Department of the right to use all mail communications established under the authority of the other for the dispatch of correspondence, either in open or closed mails, on the same terms as those applicable to the inhabitants of the country providing the means of transmission.

The report of the Secretary of the Interior exhibits the operations of the several branches of the public service which are committed to his supervision. During the last fiscal year, four million six hundred and forty-seven thousand acres of public land were disposed of, one million eight hundred and ninety-two thousand five hundred and sixty-four of which were entered under the homestead act. The public lands have not been subjected to the public lands has undergone essential modifications. Immediately after the commencement of the late rebellion, the system of direct taxation was, for the first time, applied to the public lands, and from the more densely populated portions of the new world. Its propitious results are undoubted, and will be more signally manifested as the system shall have given to it a wider development.

Congress has made liberal grants of public land to corporations, in aid of the construction of railroads and other internal improvements. Should this policy hereafter prevail, more stringent provisions will be required to secure a faithful application of the fund. The title to the lands should not pass, by patent or otherwise, but remain in the Government and subject to its control upon a portion of the road has been actually built. Portions of them might then, from time to time, be conveyed to the corporation, but never in greater quantity than the amount embraced by the grant than the completed parts bear to the entire length of the projected improvement. This restriction would prevent the purchase of lands for speculation, and encourage the completion of the work in good faith and executed with reasonable energy, as it is the settled practice to withdraw from market the lands falling within the limits of such grants, and thus to exclude the inception of a subsequent adverse right. A breach of the conditions which Congress may annex to its grants would work a forfeiture of claim to the lands so withdrawn but unconveyed, and of title to the lands conveyed which remain unsold. Operations on the northern lines of the Pacific Railroad have been prosecuted with unexampled vigor and success. Should no unforeseen causes of delay occur, it is confidently anticipated that this great thoroughfare will be completed before the expiration of the period designated by Congress.

During the last fiscal year the amount paid to pensioners, including the expenses of disbursement, was thirteen million four hundred and fifty-nine thousand nine hundred and ninety-six dollars; and fifty thousand one hundred and seventy-seven names were added to the pension rolls. The entire number of pensioners, June 30, 1866, was one hundred and fifty-six thousand seven hundred and twenty-two. This fact furnishes melancholy and striking proof of the sacrifices made to vindicate the supremacy of the laws of the Federal Government, and to maintain inviolate the integrity of the Union. They have not been counted as corresponding obligations. It is assumed that the sum of fifteen millions dollars will be required to meet the exigencies of this branch of the service during the next fiscal year.

Treaties have been concluded with the Indians who, enticed into armed opposition to our Government at the outbreak of the rebellion, have unconditionally submitted to our authority, and manifested an earnest desire for a renewal of friendly relations.

During the year ending September 30, 1866, eight thousand seven hundred and seventy patents for inventions and designs were issued, and at that date the balance in the Treasury to the credit of the Patent fund was two hundred and sixty-eight thousand two hundred and ninety-seven dollars.

As a subject upon which depends an immense amount of the production and commerce of the country, I commend to Congress such legislation as may be necessary for the preservation of the levees of the Mississippi river. It is a matter of national importance that early steps should be taken to prevent the crevasses which make these barriers against destructive inundations, but for the removal of all obstructions to the safe navigation of the great channel of trade and commerce.

The District of Columbia, under existing laws, is not entitled to that representation in the National Councils which, from our earliest history, has been uniformly accorded to each Territory established from time to time within our limits. It maintains peculiar relations to Congress, to whom the Constitution has granted the power of exercising exclusive legislation over the seat of government. Our fellow-citizens residing in the District, as its interests are thus confided to the special guardianship of Congress, exceed in number the population of several of our Territories, and in point of wealth, morality and intelligence will be more signally manifested as they shall have given to it a wider development.

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ports of Honolulu in the Sandwich Islands, and Yokohama (Kanagawa) in Japan, both on the outward and inward passages, by a line of first class American steamships, side wheel steamers of not less than 3,000 tons burden, government measurement, and of sufficient number, not less than four, to perform the service.

The Government reserves the right to withdraw the mail service at any time, and to change the steamships now running specially for this service. Two of the steamships have been launched at New York on the 8th of November instant, is now receiving her machinery, and is expected to be ready for sea about the first of May, 1867; the other is building at Greenpoint, on the same ways where the iron steamship Great Republic, the first of the new steamships now running specially for this service, was launched. The second steamship, of similar size and proportions, is to be launched early in December of this year, and will be prepared to receive her machinery, and is expected to be ready for sea about the 1st of July, 1867; and the machinery for two vessels of the dimensions is in course of construction. An inspection of the hulls and machinery of these ships, as well as a general inspection of the preparations making by the contractors, has satisfied me that every possible exertion is being used to fulfil the requirements of the law and contract.

The company have tendered their first class steamship Colorado to take the mails from San Francisco on the 1st of January, 1867, the day named in the law. This ship, which has been withdrawn from the Panama and San Francisco line to prepare her for service on the China route, is of the required tonnage, and will, it is believed, fully comply in her equipments with the terms of the law and contract, although the report of her inspection of a naval constructor, under instructions from the Secretary of the Navy, has not yet been received.

In the building of steamships for this line the contractors encountered a practical difficulty, arising out of two conflicting conditions: First, the necessity of constructing ships that could make the long voyage of 5,067 miles between San Francisco and Honolulu or Kong Kong, required in the law, with safety and success, as regards the main object for which Congress authorized the establishment of the line; and, secondly, the practicability of securing that object without building the ships so large as to preclude, by their heavy draught, the possibility of entering the harbor of Honolulu, which has a depth of water, under favorable circumstances, of barely 21 feet. These two conditions, they allege, were found to be inconsistent, and they therefore assumed the responsibility of constructing the ships as to attain the more important objects; but, naturally, while so necessarily placing a practical difficulty in the way of the accomplishment of the lesser, believing this to be literally correct, sought to obtain information regarding the main end of their contract, as well as the object for the public interests. The report noted by the establishment of the line, therefore, is consequently, building ships of much greater draft, by reason of increased size and power, generally more expensive to keep in service, than was necessary to meet the minimum requirements of the law, although the law, and the contract executed in pursuance thereof, name Honolulu as an intermediate port. But it appears to be well established by reliable official information, that the laws which govern the navigation of the Pacific ocean, render it impossible, if not incompatible with the complete success of the enterprise, to require the steamships to touch at the Sandwich Islands on their passages between San Francisco, Japan and China. It is certainly within the power of any portion of my predecessor to the Senate Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads, dated June 11, 1866, in which he embodied explanations published by Rear-Admiral Charles H. Davis, superintendent of the Naval Observatory and Observatory, respecting the proper routes to be pursued by steam vessels navigating the Pacific ocean between San Francisco, Kanagawa and Hong Kong. Admiral Davis, referring to the peculiar advantages of the great circle, or direct route between China and San Francisco, so clearly defined by natural laws, uses the following expressive language: "It is impossible to establish a route between two continents for the regular mail of intercourse and trade, to be of the greatest advantage as these. It is hardly necessary to say that it would amount to an absurdity to select the models of our ships with special reference to speed; and to propel them through the water by the use of enormous power, and then to prefer all those aids and advantages which nature offers to us as her own means of cooperation. If any note, if we are prepared to do so, we shall also prepare the lines of a fleet of enterprise at no distant day to those who will obey the laws governing the navigation of the great seas. These considerations, with regard to the eastern voyage appear to dispose of the whole question. They appear to me touching at the Sandwich Islands, on the return from China, would prolong the voyage so many days unnecessarily; that an additional line of steamers must soon be established, provided the intercourse between China and America is to acquire that importance which is confidently expected."

A careful consideration of the subject has satisfied me of the correctness of the views expressed by my predecessor in this report. That the steamships of the main line between San Francisco, Japan and China should not be required to touch at the Sandwich Islands, does not, in my judgment, admit of reasonable doubt; but the conditions upon which such release should be granted is a question exclusively for the determination of Congress. A wise and liberal policy towards a national enterprise of this magnitude would seem to justify the release without imposing onerous conditions, in consideration of the increased expenditures and responsibilities for the service of great size and augmented speed, as well as of the important public interests involved in the line.

Appointments.

NUMBER OF POSTOFFICES, &c.

The number of Postoffices established during the year.....	1,143
Number discontinued.....	639
Increase of the year.....	504
Number of Postoffices in operation on the 30th of June, 1865.....	20,559
Total number in operation on the 30th of June, 1866.....	23,828
Number of Postoffices in the States not engaged in the rebellion.....	20,559
Number in the late insurgent States, of which 2,778 were re-opened during the year.....	8,839
Number of offices subject to appointment by the President.....	709
Number by the Postmaster General.....	23,119
Number of offices examined in the Southern States up to November 1.....	8,234

CHANGES DURING THE YEAR.

Appointments made to fill vacancies by resignation of Postmasters.....	4,679
To fill vacancies in suspended offices.....	2,778
By removals.....	1,091
By change of locations and titles.....	1,189
By death of Postmasters.....	217
By establishment of new offices.....	1,103
Total number of appointments.....	10,077
Number of cases acted upon.....	10,816

SPECIAL, ROUTE AND LOCAL AGENTS.

No. special agents.....	84	Aug. compensation	$1,825
No. postal route clerks..	81	"	90 250
No. route agents..	40	"	600 00
No. local mail agents..	18	"	30 00
No. baggage masters..	30	"	1 800
Total.....			995,250

FREE DELIVERY SYSTEM.

The free delivery system is in operation in forty-six of the principal cities. The number of carriers employed on the 30th of September was 1,036, at an aggregate compensation of $883,230 41.

This mode of delivery has steadily grown in favor with the public, and in several of the large cities, where its progress has been most manifested, the postal postage shows a gratifying increase. Experience has shown its superiority over the old system of box delivery, and the results of the last two years warrant the belief that it is a permanent and profitable postal service, useful not in saving time to the public in inserting the correct delivery by locating the name of the residing letters to street and number; in relieving the great crowds at the delivery of the mail, but in facilitating for such purposes especially long, in obviating the necessity of too many fruitless calls at the postoffice, and in many other respects advantages over the old system of office delivery. (See tabular statement in the Appendix.)

Dead Letters.

NUMBER RECEIVED.

The whole number of dead letters received, examined, and disposed of during the year was 4,005,647, of which 2,822,740 were foreign, 40 per cent. of which were from forty-seven of the large postoffices. About six hundred thousand other letters were received, containing unmailable for want of prepayment of postage, or on account of misdirection or illegible address.

MONEY AND OTHER VALUABLE LETTERS.

During the year there were registered and returned to the respective owners, as containing money in sums of one dollar and upwards, 32,741 letters, containing the aggregate sum of $178,99, of which number 27,948 containing $221,066 19 were delivered, being 90 per cent. The number of dead letters, containing sums of less than one dollar, remailed to the respective owners, was 15,831, containing an aggregate amount of $3,482, 85. Of these, 11,175, containing $3,091 23, were delivered.

The number of letters containing papers of value other than money, as deeds, bills of exchange, drafts, checks, &c., received, registered, and returned for delivery to the owners, was 29,610 and the number of such letters opened therein was $7 826,881 68. The number of these letters delivered was 21,855, being 85 per cent.

The number of articles of value, including photographs, daguerreotypes and articles of jewelry, was 67,016, of which $3,572 were sent out, (containing for the most part photographs and daguerreotypes,) and 12,715, or 80 per cent. delivered.

A large number of packages containing miscellaneous articles, for which no owners could be found, were sold at public auction, the proceeds amounting to $5,553 14.

FOREIGN DEAD LETTERS.

The number of letters of all kinds, unopened, to foreign countries during the year was 193,751, the amount of unpaid postage on which was $9,- 679 40. The number received from foreign countries in the same condition during the same period was 72,440 and the amount of unpaid postage thereon, $3,626 26. (For additional particulars see Appendix.)

NUMBER OF OFFICIAL LETTERS RETURNED TO PUBLIC DEPARTMENTS.

The number of letters and official papers returned to the proper departments was 17,806.

The number of letters enclosing soldiers' discharges and other military papers sent to the Adjutant General's office was 1,273.

ORDINARY DEAD LETTERS.

The number of ordinary letters remailed to the writers was 1,746,156, being an increase of 10,677 over the number of the same character returned the year previous. Of these 1,273,845 were delivered.

The whole number of letters of all descriptions sent out during the year was 2,993,111, of which 1,622,274 were delivered, being 77 per cent.

Of the number of ordinary letters sent out for delivery since the commencement of the year, in accordance with the law, they have been returned free, 54 per cent. of which were delivered, being an increase of 17 per cent. over the percentage delivered during the same period of the year previous.

NUMBER OF DEAD LETTERS DESTROYED.

About 2,500,000 dead letters have been destroyed during the year. Of these upwards of 61 per cent. were circulars, advertisements, and prospectuses of religious societies, and fraudulent bills, or fictitious notes, drafts, and letters not bearing, or written as to be unintelligible.

CAUSES OF THE NON-DELIVERY OF LETTERS.

An investigation into the cause of the non-delivery of letters mailed in the United States is made in the last report, that three fourths of the whole number are caused by the writers not addressed through faults of the writers, and it has been ascertained that the proportion of letters fully addressed remains about the same where free delivery is established is less than 3 per cent. From cities of these offices returned have been received, in which not a single letter so addressed appears without a satisfactory reason for the non-delivery. The number of such dead letters are returned from these offices, and it thus appears that a more careful attention to the directions of addressing parcels of writers, to the letter with a more extensive use of request envelopes, would materially promote the certainty of delivery and greatly diminish the number of dead letters.

Postal Money Order System.

NUMBER OF OFFICES ESTABLISHED.

The number of money order offices now in operation is 766, being 347 more than at the date of the last annual report, and measures have recently been taken to establish 40 additional offices in the Pacific States and Territories.

NUMBER OF ORDERS ISSUED AND PAID.

The number of orders issued during the year was 243,09, of the value of..... $8,077,259 22

The number paid was 98,191, of the value of..... $3,501,839 19

To which is to be added the amount of orders repaid to purchasers..... 52,050 73

..... 3,993,890 92

Excess of issues over payments..... 73,993 06

From the establishment of the system on November 1, 1864, to July 1, 1865, a period of eight months, the orders issued amounted to $1,983,- 122 55, and the orders paid and repaid to $1,313,- 777 66. Owing partly to these amounts with the corresponding transactions of the last fiscal year, it appears that the business has been almost doubled.

AVERAGE AMOUNT OF ORDERS.

The average amount of each order issued during the year was $33 32.

The whole number of drafts was 1,462, of which 1,124 were issued to replace originals lost, to the amount of other value, 226 were in favor of orders invalidated by age, and 12 to replace orders illegally indorsed.

The sum of $2,710,685 59, being surplus funds accruing at the smaller offices for the transaction of the money order business, was transmitted to first-class offices used as depositories, either by national bank drafts or in registered packages by mail. The receipts and expenditures for the fiscal year, as adjusted and reported by the Auditor, were as follows, viz:

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES.

Receipts:	
Fees on orders issued.....	$35,709 98
Premium received on exchange.....	3 08
.....	35,803 06
Expenditures:	
Commissions to Postmasters.. $11,432 19	
Clerk hire..... 14,910 50	
Bank stands and lumber..... 1,224 50	
Postage paid on drafts..... 25	
Miscellaneous, including furniture and fixtures..... 593 41	
Remittances lost in the mails..... 523 00	
.....	28,604 27
Excess of receipts over expenditures.....	7,198 79

This sum represents the gross amount of revenue derived from the establishment of the money order business for the past year, and if we must deduct from the amount of the deficiency in the receipts as compared with the expenditures during the period of eight months ending July 1, 1865, as stated in the last annual report, viz.....

.....	7,097 97
There remains the sum of.....	99 82

As the present system from its commencement up to the close of the last fiscal year.

The cost of blanks for postmasters, which are furnished by the department of public printing, is not included in the foregoing statement of expenditures.

ADDITIONAL LEGISLATION RECOMMENDED.

The present change or fee established by law for an order of 10 dollars or less is 10 cents, and for an order exceeding twenty dollars, twenty cents. Numerous cases have been developed in this respect, that an application to issue a single order for ten dollars, could be in two orders for twenty dollars each to avoid the payment of twenty cents, while for a single order for twenty dollars, two orders for ten dollars each would be required to pay twenty five cents. The manifest tendency of this system is to encourage evasions and increase the number of orders issued, involving a waste of time and of clerical labor at both the issuing and paying offices, and also increasing the liability to error. The adoption of an additional fee, graduated from 5 cents upwards for more than ten, but not exceeding thirty dollars, would remedy the defect in legislation; promote expedition and accuracy in the transaction of business.

As some postoffices, particularly those located at the principal commercial points, the number of orders paid very greatly exceeds the number issued, so that the payment of orders constitutes the chief business of these offices, as well as the postmaster's compensation for paying orders, the commission of one per cent. on the amount thereof, is much less than for issuing them, for which the receives one third of the fees, it is recommended that the commission for paying orders be increased from one-eighth to one-fourth of one per cent., so as to afford postmasters at such offices a compensation proportionate to their services.

In order to obtain a money order, the owner, in order to obtain a duplicate thereof, is required to furnish a statement under oath or affirmation, setting forth the loss or destruction of the original, together with a certificate from the postmaster by whom it is alleged that it has not been and will not be paid. A certificate is also required from the postmaster that the order in question had been and will not be repaid to the purchaser. To prevent the issue of orders upon information with regard to the loss of the original, which subsequently is found to be was mislaid at a certain office, but failed from causes unknown to him to reach the person to whom it was sent, the owner of the order, on a statement to that effect under oath, (which is hereinafter authorized by the postmaster without charge,) and to defray the cost of the current revenue stamp affixed to such statement, is required to procure a letter addressed to the owner, who is rarely to be blamed for the loss of the original, for which the regular fee had already been paid to the department, and the latter having undertaken, in consideration of that fee, to transmit the money to the eastern voyage appear to dispose of the whole question. They appear to me touching at the Sandwich Islands, on the return from China, would prolong the voyage so many days unnecessarily; that an additional line of steamers must soon be established, provided the intercourse between China and America is to acquire that importance which is confidently expected."

A careful consideration of the subject has satisfied me of the correctness of the views expressed by my predecessor in this report. That the steamships of the main line between San Francisco, Japan and China should not be required to touch at the Sandwich Islands, does not, in my judgment, admit of reasonable doubt; but the conditions upon which such release should be granted is a question exclusively for the determination of Congress. A wise and liberal policy towards a national enterprise of this magnitude would seem to justify the release without imposing onerous conditions, in consideration of the increased expenditures and responsibilities for the service of great size and augmented speed, as well as of the important public interests involved in the line.

Appointments.

NUMBER OF POSTOFFICES, &c.

The number of Postoffices established during the year.....	1,143
Number discontinued.....	639
Increase of the year.....	504
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Total number in operation on the 30th of June, 1866.....	23,828
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As some postoffices, particularly those located at the principal commercial points, the number of orders paid very greatly exceeds the number issued, so that the payment of orders constitutes the chief business of these offices, as well as the postmaster's compensation for paying orders, the commission of one per cent. on the amount thereof, is much less than for issuing them, for which he receives one third of the fees, it is recommended that the commission for paying orders be increased from one-eighth to one-fourth of one per cent., so as to afford postmasters at such offices a compensation proportionate to their services.

In order to obtain a money order, the owner, in order to obtain a duplicate thereof, is required to furnish a statement under oath or affirmation, setting forth the loss or destruction of the original, together with a certificate from the postmaster by whom it is alleged that it has not been and will not be paid. A certificate is also required from the postmaster that the order in question had been and will not be repaid to the purchaser. To prevent the issue of orders upon information with regard to the loss of the original, which subsequently is found to be was mislaid at a certain office, but failed from causes unknown to him to reach the person to whom it was sent, the owner of the order, on a statement to that effect under oath, (which is hereinafter authorized by the postmaster without charge,) and to defray the cost of the current revenue stamp affixed to such statement, is required to procure a letter addressed to the owner, who is rarely to be blamed for the loss of the original, for which the regular fee had already been paid to the department, and the latter having undertaken, in consideration of that fee, to transmit the money to the owner, or his order, in case of the loss or destruction of the original, by a duplicate, which, in such cases, and should be abolished. For similar reasons no charge whatever should be made for the issue of a duplicate in lieu of an order that once been paid, it would seem, therefore, that the legal requirement in relation to the issue of a duplicate in lieu of an order of the loss or destruction of the original, should be abolished. For similar reasons no charge whatever should be made for the issue of a duplicate in lieu of an order original that has become invalid because not presented for payment within the time prescribed by law, or because improperly indorsed. In such cases the invalidation of the order is in itself a penalty for any fault or neglect of the owner, and, upon application, should receive payment of his money by means of a duplicate without a second fee.

During the last fiscal year, the number of cases of the payment of orders to persons who had forged the indorsement of the names of payees, previously, through lack of precaution or injudicious confidence of the holder of orders, in obtaining possession of all the information required to obtain payment of the order. To forge the name of a payee in order to issue a penal offense by act of May 17, 1861, but there is no provision of law to punish the forgery of the name of a payee in order to obtain the money, to be often repeated especially at the large offices, where it is impossible for the clerk carefully to identify all those who present orders for payment, and that all should disappear with the first opportunity, and that there would be nothing in the future to prevent that unity and guilt of the forgery of the name which are necessary for true national prosperity.

The Secretary regrets, notwithstanding the large profits of the system, it is not in a more satisfactory condition, in other respects, of the Postmaster General, that the reduction of rates of postage made since his last report toward specie payments. The views presented by him in that report, which have been adopted by Congress and Representatives by a nearly unanimous vote, were based upon the principle of placing legislation, instead of being authorized by the issue of paper circulation of the country, providing for the resumption of specie payments of United States notes whose use was permitted by the legislation of Congress during the period of the rebellion, and which, by the act of February 25, 1862, July 11, 1862, and March 3, 1863, was limited to the sum of $400,000,000. The contraction of the currency, by the withdrawal of United States notes to the amount of $44,032,814 during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1866, was not anticipated by the Secretary, and was the result of the unexpected large receipts into the Treasury from internal revenue, customs and sales of public property. The amount of United States notes which can be withdrawn from circulation and destroyed, without producing a contraction of the currency injurious to the business interests of the country, is a question of great importance, and which should be determined by the amount required for the use of the people, based upon the business and population of the country. The amount of United States notes outstanding on the 1st of November, 1865, was $356,000,000, and the circulation of the national banks was $298,000,000, making a total currency of $654,000,000. The amount of United States notes outstanding on the 1st of November, 1866, was $356,000,000, and the circulation of the national banks was $298,000,000, making a total currency of $654,000,000. The amount of United States notes outstanding on the 1st of November, 1866, was $356,000,000, and the circulation of the national banks was $298,000,000, making a total currency of $654,000,000. The amount of United States notes outstanding on the 1st of November, 1866, was $356,000,000, and the circulation of the national banks was $298,000,000, making a total currency of $654,000,000.

THE POSTAL SERVICE SHOULD DEFRAY ITS OWN EXPENSES.

It has always been an erroneous theory in the history of the postal service of the United States that it was established for revenue, and that the policy of weekly defraying its own expenses out of its own revenues was a matter of secondary importance. This is especially the case in the Eastern regions of the heavier, where the constellation Leo was to be seen in the zenith at midnight, and in the region of the meridian. Hundreds of the meteors far surpassed in brilliancy the stars of the first magnitude, and many of the most luminous were bright than Jupiter, and some of them even brighter than Venus when she is nearest to the earth.

As an incident of these meteoric times, it may be mentioned that immense rains fell in various parts of England, and that Lancashire and Yorkshire especially were deluged.

TEXAS STAY LAW.—Texas has a stay law which applies to all judgments rendered before January next, payments on which, except sums to the State, are to be made in four annual instalments.

REPORT
OF THE
Secretary of the Treasury.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
WASHINGTON, December 3, 1866.

In conformity with the requirements of law, the Secretary has the honor to make the following report.

In his report under date of the 4th of December, 1865, the Secretary estimated, according to the data furnished him by this Department and by the other Departments, that the expenditures of the Government for the three quarters of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1866, would exceed the receipts, $112,791,917 20. The result was widely different. The receipts exceeded the estimates $89,005,995 45; the expenditures fell short of the estimates $230,529 235 39. The following statement exhibits the items of increase of receipts and decrease of expenditures in comparison with the estimates:

Statement of the estimated and actual receipts and expenditures of the United States from October 1, 1865, to June 30, 1866:

RECEIPTS.

	Estimated.	Actual.	Ex. receipts.
Customs.....	$100,000,000 00	$102,007,968 55	$2,007,968 55
Lands.....	1,500,000 00	1,852,140 49	352,140 49
Internal revenue.....	175,000,000 00	272,601,927 77	97,601,927 77
Miscellaneous.....	20,000,000 00	21,285,179 30	1,285,179 30
Direct tax.....		1,944,642 82	1,944,642 82
Total ordinary receipts.....	296,500,000 00	399,895,905 41	$103,395,905 41
Cash balance Oct. 1, 1865.....	67,168,515 41	67,168,515 41	
	$363,668,515 41	$467,064,420 88	$103,395,905 41

EXPENDITURES.

	Estimated.	Actual.	Exc. estim's.
Civil service.....	$33,994,062 28	$30,485,560 55	$2,508,501 73
Pensions, Ind.	12,250,700 94	11,961,285 79	289,415 15
For int. on debt.....	130,000,000 00	129,470,781 27	529,218 73
Navy Dept.	31,000,000 00	26,802,715 31	18,197,284 69
War Dept.	99,813,868 75	99,991,599 19	8,178,269 56
Ded. def'ct on public'ns			$59,669,629 74
	$364,858,132 97	$318,911,227 84	$30,579,215 80

Recapitulation.

Actual receipts, including cash balance.....	$462,564 420 88
Estimated receipts, in- cluding cash balance.....	372,658,515 41
Excess of receipts over estimates.....	$89,905,995 47
Actual expenditures.....	481,380,462 61
Actual expenditures.....	581,324,227 34
Actual expenditures less than estimated.....	230,529 235 39

The following is a statement of receipts and expenditures for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1866:

Balance in Treasury, agreeable to warrants July 1, 1865..... $67,168,515 41
Receipts from customs..... 102,007,968 55
Receipts from lands..... 1,852,140 49
Receipts from internal revenue..... 272,601,927 77
Receipts from miscellaneous sources..... 21,285,179 30
Receipts from direct tax..... 1,944,642 82
Total receipts..... $399,895,905 41
Total amount..... $467,064,420 88

EXPENDITURES.

For the redemption of the public debt.....	$ 24,762,833 44
For the civil service.....	11,893,736 44
For pensions and Indians	10,285,179 30
For the War Department.	12,588,214 92
For the Navy Department.	16,802,715 31
For interest on the public debt.....	33,865,469 99
Leaving a balance in the Treasury, on the 31st day of October, 1866, of.....	322,041,761 73
	$144,416,789 19

The following statement exhibits the items of increase in the principal of the public debt for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1866:

Amount of public debt, June 30, 1866..... $2,682,593,026 83
Amount of cash in Treasury..... 848,209 14
Amount of public debt, less cash in Treasury..... $2,681,744,817 69
Amount of public debt, June 30, 1865..... $2,757,635,946 31
Net decrease..... $75,891,128 62

This decrease was caused as follows, by payments and increase of cash in Treasury:

Bonds, 6 per cent. acts July 17, 1861, and April 12, 1862.....	$116,139 77
Treasury notes, 5 per cent., acts December 24, 1857, and March 2, 1861.....	2,200 00
Bonds, 6 per cent., act September 9, 1850, (Texas indemnity).....	283,000 00
Treasury notes, 7.30, act July 17, 1861.....	300,750 00
Certificates of indebtedness, 6 per cent., act March 3, 1863.....	69,361,000 00
Treasury notes, 5 per ct., act March 3, 1863.....	38,881,450 00
6 per ct., act June 30, 1864.....	31,743,950 00
7.30 per ct., act March 3, 1865.....	1,351,900 00
United States notes, acts July 17, 1861, and February 25, 1862.....	200,461 00
United States notes, acts February 25, July 11, 1862, and March 3, 1863.....	32,068,760 00
Postal currency, act July 1, 1865.....	2,884,297 88
Cash in Treasury, increased.....	321,929,230 96
Gross decrease.....	$532,225,059 01
From which deduct for increase, by—	
Bonds, 6 per cent., acts July 1, 1862, issued to Central Pacific Railroad Company, &c., interest payable in lawful money.....	$ 4,784,000 00
Treasury notes, 7.30, acts June 30, 1864, and March 3, 1865, interest payable in lawful money.....	134,641,150 01
Temporary loan, 4, 5 and 6 per cents, acts February 25, 1862, and June 30, 1864.....	30,459,135 25
Gold certificates act March 3, 1863.....	10,713,180 00
Fractional currency, act March 3, 1863.....	4,949,756 95
Bonds, 6 per ct., March 3, 1863.....	2,882,500 00
Bonds, 6 per ct., act June 30, 1864.....	8,211,000 00
Bonds, 6 per ct., March 3, 1865.....	101,542,500 00
Bonds, 6 per ct., act January 28, 1847.....	$1,672,450 00
Bonds, 6 per cent., acts July 22, 1861, and April 24, 1862.....	141,037 77
Bonds, 6 per cent., act March 31, 1863.....	417,400 00
Bonds, 5 per cent., act March 3, 1863.....	1,750,700 00
Bonds, 6 per cent., act September 9, 1850, (Texas indemnity).....	455,000 00
Treasury notes, 6 per cents, acts December 23, 1857, and March 2, 1861.....	8,200 00
Temporary loan, 4, 5, and 6 per cent., acts 5 February 25, 1862, and June 30, 1864.....	62,186,714 27
Certificates of indebtedness, 4 per cent., acts March 1, 1862, and March 3, 1863.....	84,911,000 00
Treasury notes 6 per cent. one and two years, act March 3, 1863.....	31,000,000 00
Compound interest notes, 6 per cent. act June 30, 1864.....	293,100 92
Treasury notes, 7.30, act June 30, 1864, and March 3, 1865.....	68,942,920 03
United States notes, act July 17, 1861, and February 12, 1862.....	165,985,700 00
United States notes, acts February 25, 1862, July 11, 1862, and March 3, 1863.....	42,930,174 01
Legal tender notes, act March 3, 1863.....	3,820,779 63
Suspended requisitions.....	2,011,000 00
Increase of cash in Treasury.....	495,583,297 67
Value [illegible]	42,108,945 49
Gross decrease.....	$847,692,903 18
From which deduct for increase—	
Bonds 6 per cent., acts July 17 and Aug. 5, 1861.....	$ 114,750 00
Bonds, 6 per cent., act March 3, 1864.....	3,882,500 00
Bonds, 6 per cent., act June 30, 1864.....	8,211,000 00
Bonds, 6 per cent. act March 3, 1865.....	226,281,900 00
Bonds, 6 per cent., acts July 1, 1862, and July 2, 1864, issued to Central Pacific R. Co., &c., interest payable in lawful money.....	101,758,990 00
Bonds, 6 per cent., acts July 1, 1862, and July 2, 1864, issued to Central Pacific R. Co., &c., interest payable in lawful money.....	3,840,000 00
Gold certificates, act March 3, 1863.....	152,800 00
Fractional currency, acts March 3, 1863, and June 30, 1864.....	1,208,165 12
Cash in Treasury, decreased...	2,960,668 49
	109,538,103 61
Net decrease.....	$737,154,799 57

The following statement exhibits the items of increase and decrease of the public debt from the highest point, August 31, 1865, to October 31, 1866:

Amount of public debt, August 31, 1865, as per statement..... $2,845,907,629 66
Amount of old issued and dated..... 114,115 48
Amount of public debt..... $2,846,021,745 14
Amount of cash in Treasury..... 88,218 05 13
Amount of public debt, Aug. 31, 1865, less cash in Treasury

filled with ignorance that the chains of the body may be made to minister very worn when there is no danger of war; when none will be injured if the black man is bloated when there is no section to conciliate, no master to offend what do we find as to the case? Are all former objections thrown aside? Does a more benevolent, charitable, Christian spirit universally prevail? Are we trying to undo the fury of a century and make amends for past inhumanity? When black men can be no longer used as cattle, do they cease to be regarded as men? In asking these questions I am not forgetting that a mighty reform has been effected. * * * Some one may say, What more do you want? Will nothing satisfy? Would you have the race spoiled with luxury, killed with kindness? Would you press rights and privileges upon those only maddened with vanity they should grow proud and insolent? Are proud days no such fears. Such talk is the very reason why were so long unjustly enslaved. We forget that there is inherent right on the side of the black man and blinding ambition on the side of the white man. That at east but the former can be trusted. A right return for deeds long withheld.

What a calculation of wrongs, the injustice, the injustice done to a race by a century of bondage! How much has been denied! And how much manhood has been dwarfed, how much power has been wasted, how much development of the mighty forces, which have been lost to the race, to the nation, and to the world! At best we can make but poor amends for the injury that American slavery has done. While the nation has been growing in power, while its citizens have been reaping the fruits of national and individual development, while we have dotted the land with churches, school houses and colleges for ourselves, the entire energies of the race, we have held this whole race in bondage. We have denied them education, we have denied them an untrammeled gospel, have crushed out their manhood, have, in fact, given them, have restrained all development, enabling them to the rock we have made a race of a century. Alas, this such an unhappy color was chosen, that it was so blind a stroke to suppose that the race was either National security or National honor. Of even Nation a profit to human bondage.

If we think to level the nation long and entirely better for the race, would it have been, to have built churches and school houses instead of whipping posts, auction houses to have educated instead of outlawing the enunciation of knowledge as crime, to have elevated instead of degrading with ignorance and brutality, to have encouraged thrift, enterprise and development as the wages, instead of encouraging indolence, and breed by putting upon a free man a price. Had this been the color of law this would be stopped, the South would in day and by the life, thrift, enterprise, and energy of the North, and the colored race would be strong, educated, a power in the nation, and exalted to the dignity of a self-supporting, well-to-do and true race would be living together as harmoniously and as much to the advantage of both parties and working class of the North. Property in man was a constitutional clause for a Constitution. The proud edifice erected on it which seemed beautiful to many Northern eyes, and the admiration of many Southern eyes of the Republic is to be rent it, and the only safe ground on which to build is the ruins. Northern wing has erected from its foundation. Southern wing of the Republic is to be rent it, and the only safe ground on which to build is the ruins. Northern wing has erected from its foundation. Southern wing of the Republic is to be rent it, and the only safe ground on which to build is the ruins. Northern wing has erected from its foundation. Southern wing of the Republic is to be rent it, and the only safe ground on which to build is the ruins.

The South should be ashamed to ask to build again on the old foundation. She should rather seek to repair her ruin and build on a new foundation.

Shall she build again on the built before? The voice of a free people has said, No! and a free people's representatives will echo and with even more commanding emphasis repeat the verdict.

It is vain for men to assert that the matter is settled. It is not settled. It is not settled on the principles, unless indorsed by an enlightened moral sentiment, unless met in the South by a like moral, straightforward policy, and cheerfully accepted in and acted upon. Every influence for good, every influence for such a spirit has not been manifested in the South.

It is the duty that a great nation must be kept in turmoil, when the discharge of a single, manly, Christian duty would bring peace and prosperity to all.

The only grave, vital issue of the hour is the status of the black man. Let that be settled. Let the black man's place, the rights that belong to his manhood the rights and privileges of his citizenship, be recognized, shall his power still be denied, shall his manhood still be ignored, shall he still be the victim of these grave questions that vex the nation?

There is no reason why the black man should not have his rights. He is a man and may demand them. He is a freeman, and may strike for them. * * * Like Pharaoh, his oppressors "let go," when their hands were so tied with plagues, and when the plagues partially relieved them, they paused and pursue. Let them take warning from Pharaoh, lest pursuing God's people to the sea, their overthrow shall be final and their waves be swallowed in the deep. While the black man was under the yoke there was reason for his oppression, but now men can only plead unmanly prejudice for their harsh and persecuting spirit. To oppress such a one is in the poor reprobate is to make himself a fiend. Let the black man be free, and let freedom be good work, must go on, God is on the black man's side. He will be our deliverance. Will we, by co operating, share the joy and reap the reward."

"DIVINE PROVIDENCE AS ILLUSTRATED BY OUR NATIONAL CRISIS."

Thanksgiving Address by the Rev. E. B. Snyder, Pastor of Christ's M. E. Church.

A large congregation was present at Christ Methodist Episcopal Church, on Penn street, on Thanksgiving Day morning, on which occasion the pastor, the Rev. E. B. Snyder, delivered an address upon the Divine Providence as illustrated by our National Crisis. The services were commenced by singing the 107th Hymn, to the tune of "Old Hundred," after which the pastor read the 46th Psalm. The choir then sang the 103d Hymn, commencing:

"Fountain of mercy, God of love;
How rich Thy bounties flow!"

The Rev. Mr. Snyder then ascended the pulpit plat form, and proceeded to deliver his address. He set out with the idea that the history of nations is God's commentary on His own government. God works in accordance with settled principles, but the agencies by human agencies, even the very beings who seem to act in an opposite manner to His will, God's government is universal in its sway. It has been, or shall be, the ruin of nations. Human knowledge is limited. Its plans are often defeated, but the wisdom of God is unfathomable. The wisdom of events is limited information in which we possess. Of